15

20

5

10

A CONVERSATIONAL PORTAL FOR PROVIDING CONVERSATIONAL BROWSING AND MULTIMEDIA BROADCAST ON DEMAND

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing conversational (multi-modal) access to information over a communications network from any location, at any time, utilizing any type of client/access, through a conversational (multi-modal) In one aspect, a conversational portal comprises a conversational (multi-modal) browser that is capable of conducting multi-modal dialog with client/access devices having varying input/output (I/O) modalities. conversational browser retrieves information (such as content pages, applications) from an information source (e.g., content server) in response to a request from a requesting client/access device and then serves the retrieved information to the requesting client/access device in a format that is compatible with the I/O modalities of the requesting client/access device. In another aspect, the conversational portal provides multimedia access on demand. The conversational portal comprises an audio indexing system for segmenting and indexing audio and multimedia data obtained from an information source, as well as a multi-media database for storing the indexed audio and multi-media data. A subscribing user can compose and

Y0999-273 (8728-298)

maintain a broadcast program wherein the user specifies which types, and in what order, different segments (news, radio, etc.) stored in the database are played back/broadcasted to the user.